

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Member; and Mr. Mike Brown, newly appointed Member; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a few guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

At this time President Black introduced Mr. Mike Brown who was recently appointed to the Board. Both Mr. Black and Mr. Morris gave Mr. Brown a brief background of themselves. Mr. Brown stated he was the Director of the Canton YMCA.

The minutes of the December 8, 2010 regular meeting were the next item of business. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by F. Morris. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by the following vote:

Mr. Black - Yes

Mr. Morris - Yes

Mr. Brown - Abstain

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director reported that he had received no new information on this matter. He then asked Councilmember Smith if she had heard anything new. Ms. Smith stated she had been told that the holdup with returning the property back to the Park System was with the Parks. The Director along with the Board members informed her that they were more than ready to take control and management of the property, but that it was understood that it had not as yet been returned to the City and was still involved in the conversion of property regarding the construction of the new fire station. Ms. Smith stated she would follow up on the issue.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that Engineering was still working on the map; however, the person that was working on it had left and someone new was now working on it. He also stated he would like to have it completed before April 30, 2011, for the dedication of the Fairhope Nature Preserve.

Mr. Black asked that once the Director had the map if it could be emailed to the Board members. The Director stated he would see that it was done.

3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director reported that there had been no new information received regarding the easements. He then asked the Councilmembers if they had heard anything in Council regarding them. The two Councilmembers stated they had not as yet. The issue remained tabled.
4. Ohio Plan Playground Evaluation - The Director reported they had not received anything new from the insurance company, and the weather had put off the playground inspection for now. The issue remained tabled.
5. Clear Channel Outdoor Electronic Message Center Location - The Director reported that he had not been contacted further by Clear Channel. Councilmember Smith restated that both the neighborhood group and she were against the concept.

The Director was instructed to drop the issue from old business unless there were any new developments.

6. SARTA request for Crenshaw Park Property - This item was added to old business; however, a plan that was to be presented to the Board was not ready for the Board's review.

Councilmember Smith again voiced that she did not support this request. The issue was tabled.

7. Request from Park System employees regarding work hours - This issue was raised at the last Board meeting by Mr. Gravila.

Mr. Black asked the members if this kind of issue was really something with which the Board should be dealing. Mr. Morris stated that he felt that since the Park System management responds to the Board that it could do so.

Mr. Black stated that although he appreciated that, he still had concerns about it being dark at starting time, and if the crews were mowing and trimming at 6:30 a.m., there would be complaints.

Mr. Gravila stated the crews did not leave the building until 20 to 30 minutes so they would not be on a job site, at least depending on where they were starting work.

Mr. Brown stated that this issue was a management decision, and the Board should not get involved.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Morris he wished to make a motion regarding the issue. Mr. Morris stated he did not at this time, but that he would like to know the decision and the reasons behind it.

The Director stated he had not made a final decision and was looking into the issues, but that he was currently leaning against the requested change.

8. Memorandum of Agreement for a Greater Canton Recreational Services Coalition - The Director presented the Board the agreement provided to him by Mr. Gordon and told them that Mr. Gordon had planned on being at the meeting, but had to travel to Cleveland and was not sure he would make it back on time. Mr. Gordon requested that the Board consider joining the coalition and asked that they sign the agreement and designate a person to represent them on the coalition.

Mr. Black stated since this was the first time he had seen the agreement he would like some clarifications. For example, the agreement states that there would be a central registration, but does not state where or who would be the home of this registration location.

Mr. Morris stated he had several discussions with Mr. Gordon regarding the agreement and the location for the central registration would be at the Recreation Department.

Mr. Black said he thought the agreement should have stated that information. He also asked about the "coordinate all maintenance activities" section. Mr. Morris stated he did not know as he had not seen that section.

Mr. Foltz stated he already tried to get fields mowed when they needed done if he knows in advance when they need done.

Mr. Morris asked who would appoint the representative? Mr. Black stated the Park Commission would do so.

Mr. Brown stated that speaking only for the YMCA, they were not interested in this concept. The YMCA felt it did not need such a body telling them how to run their building.

A motion was made by F. Morris to sign the agreement. A second was provided by M. Brown, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black then asked the Board members who they would like to appoint to the group?

Councilmember Griffin asked to say something and stated to Mr. Brown that he did not believe the organizing of this group was an attempt to run the YMCA's building. Mr. Brown stated that the YMCA's position was that they already did the things outlined in the agreement.

Mr. Morris stated he would love to represent the Park Commission as he both understood what was being attempted and supported the idea.

The Board had no objection to Mr. Morris representing the Commission as a part of this group.

President Black noted that since that was the last item of old business, he now wished to address issues related with the recent change in the Board's membership.

He first asked the Director to have a plaque prepared for outgoing Member Jack Angelo to thank him for his service on the Board.

Mr. Black stated that he felt the Officer positions should be discussed and although he was willing to continue to serve as President, he understood if there was a desired change.

Mr. Morris made a motion for Mr. Black to continue as President. Mr. Brown provided a second, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black then made a motion to have Mr. Morris assume the position of Vice President. A second was provided by M. Brown, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black then asked if the guests had any issues to present to the Board. Hearing none, the Director then proceeded to the new business items on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use Requests:

- A. St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church requesting use of Weis Park parking areas from June 5, 2011 through June 12, 2011, in connection with their annual "Summerfest" event
- B. Community Coalition Against Violence requesting the use of Nimisilla Park on June 3rd and 4th, 2011 to hold their "CCAV Annual Concept for Peace" event
- C. Canton Joint Recreation District requesting use of Willig Field for an overnight softball tournament June 25 through June 26, 2011
- D. Aultman Health Foundation requesting use of the trail in and around Stadium Park on July 16, 2011, to hold their Subway Challenge Series Race
- E. Trinity Gospel Temple requesting use of Nimisilla Park and the shelters on July 30, 2011, to hold their annual "Drug Free Rally"

The Board reviewed the above requests. A motion was then made by F. Morris to approve them with insurance requirements on uses A, B, D, and E. A second was provided by M. Brown, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club requesting to use Arboretum Park on April 23, 2011, to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In addition, they are asking to have a sign placed in the park from April 11 through April 23 announcing their event.

A motion to approve this event with an insurance requirement was made by F. Morris. A second was provided by M. Brown, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. The Director reported that a meeting had been held to begin to organize a dedication for the Fairhope Nature Preserve. The group had discussed possible activities, who else should be on the committee, other organizations that should be invited to be involved, people or organizations to ask to provide information, and the date for the event.

The date for the event was set for April 30th with a rain date of May 1st, 2011.

Mr. Black stated he would check to see if the Timken Group was interested in doing their Earth Day event on the same day.

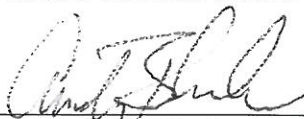
The Director told Councilmember Griffin that the group had wanted him to join the committee, and Mr. Griffin got the date and time for the next meeting.

3. The Director informed the Board that the Assistant Director and he had a meeting with the Recreation District Director about possible capital projects she wanted to do within the Park System in 2011. The list included many ball field fences and backstops, basketball goals and posts, new baskets for the disc golf course, four new play structures, and other items.

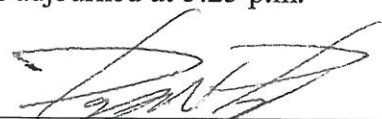
Mr. Black asked if some of it could be used in regard to Green Acres Park. The Director stated that could indeed be kept in mind.

4. Assistant Director Foltz told the Board that he had been approached by some ladies of the Canton Garden Center Organization about the possibility of having the fountain recently donated by Mr. Schneider placed to the south of the Garden Center building. He stated they had asked Mr. Schneider about his donating the fountain. The Director stated he had no problem with Mr. Foltz looking into the issue with the Canton Garden Center.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary